

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR
CONTINUATION-IN-PART PATENT APPLICATION**

As a hereinafter named inventor, I declare that the information given herein is true, that I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor if only one name is listed at 201 below, or a joint inventor if plural inventors are named below at 201 C 203, of the invention entitled:

Door Edge Protection System For Conventional Autorack Rail Cars

which is described and claimed in:

- the attached specification; or
 the specification in application Serial No. _____, filed _____.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Sec. 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Sec. 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/077,815 Filed: March 12, 1998

U.S. Application Serial No. 09/267,436 Filed: March 12, 1999.

I further acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware where there is substantial likelihood that a reasonable Examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application as a patent.

This application discloses subject matter in addition to that disclosed in my earlier filed pending application, Serial No. 09/732,606 filed December 8, 2000.

As to the additional claimed subject matter of this application which is not common to said earlier application, I do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States of America before my invention thereof or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof or more than one year prior to said earlier

application, or in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to said earlier application; that said subject matter has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of said earlier application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to said earlier application; and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on said invention has been filed by me or my representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States of America, except as follows:

**FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, FILED WITHIN TWELVE (12)MONTHS
PRIOR TO THE FILING DATE OF THIS APPLICATION**

| Country | Application No. | Date Filed | Priority Claimed Under 35 USC 119 | Yes | No |
|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|--|------------|-----------|
| <u>None</u> | | | | | |

**ALL FOREIGN APPLICATIONS, IF ANY, FILED
MORE THAN TWELVE (12) MONTHS PRIOR TO THE FILING DATE
OF THIS APPLICATION**

| Country | Application No. | Date Filed | Yes | No |
|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------|
| <u>None</u> | | | | |

201

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203

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POWER OF ATTORNEY

As named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Stuart H. Thomas Mark Y. Zhu

Signature of
Inventor 201

Signature of
Inventor 202

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Inventor 203

Jan. 17, 2002

Jan. 17, 2002

Date

Date

Date